

distant lands, we cannot but be struck with the fact that, while Hindostan (with the exception of the higher Himalayan mountains), differs so materially in its structure and fossil contents from Europe, Australia (particularly Victoria) presents, in its palæozoic rocks at least, a close analogy to Britain. Thanks to the ability and zeal of Mr. Selwyn, a large portion of this great auriferous colony has been already surveyed and mapped out in the clearest manner. In doing this he has demonstrated that the productive quartzose veinstones, which are the chief matrix of gold, are mainly subordinate to the lower Silurian slaty rocks, charged with trilobites and graptolites, and penetrated by granite, syenite, and volcanic rocks, occupying vast regions. Mr. Selwyn, aided in the palæontology of his large subject by Professor M'Coy, has also shown how these original auriferous rocks have been worn down at successive periods, one of which abrasions is of pliocene age, another of post-pliocene, and a third the result of existing causes. All these distinctions, as well as the demarcation of the carboniferous, oolitic, and other rocks are clearly set forth. Looking with admiration at the execution of these geological maps, it was with exceeding pain I learnt that some members of the Legislature of Victoria had threatened to curtail their cost, if not to stop their production. As such ill-timed economy would occasion serious regret among all men of science, and would, I know, be also deeply lamented by the enlightened Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, and would at the same time be of lasting disservice to the material advancement of knowledge among the mining classes of the State, let us earnestly hope that the young House of Parliament at Melbourne may not be led to enact such a measure.

[Want of space compels us to omit the conclusion of this address, as well as a preceding portion relating to the Permian rocks.]